

EARL BLUMENAUER
THIRD DISTRICT, OREGON
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS



WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1111 LONGWORTH BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4811

DISTRICT OFFICE:
911 NE 11TH AVE
SUITE 200
PORTLAND, OR 97232
(503) 231-2300

website: blumenauer.house.gov

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Earl Blumenauer
House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Trade
Questions for the Record for the “Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act:
Considerations for Renewal” Hearing
September 10, 2020

Question One

Mr. Sassine: During the hearing, we heard testimony from Solidarity Center about labor challenges affecting the lives of Haitian workers, in particular concerns surrounding mandatory employer healthcare deductions. I was very upset to hear about the recent deaths of Sandra René and Liunel Pierre, employees at the Palm Apparel and Sewing International factories, respectively. As a representative of the Haitian Industries Association, please explain how your members are working to resolve this troubling and seemingly widespread issue to ensure that no other worker needlessly dies as a result of employers failing to forward workers’ deducted contributions to the Haitian Insurance Office.

Question Two

Ms. Baltzan: Thank you for your insightful testimony about the need to rethink how our trade policies can be improved to further our commitment to equitable and sustainable development. You rightfully note that no preference program includes an environment criterion. Can you further explain why an environment criterion is a necessary addition to our preference programs and development goals?

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Earl Blumenauer".